

Ecosystems of the World 8A. Natural Grasslands. Introduction and Western Hemisphere. Edited by ROBERT T. COUPLAND. Elsevier, New York, NY. xiii + 469 p. Hardcover, \$217. ISBN 0444-88264-2.

This is the first of a two-volume series dealing with grasslands of the world; Volume 8B covers grasslands of Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. While Volume 8A concentrates on North America and South America there is much information on climate, soils and general ecological processes.

One chapter relevant to Madrono readers is the "California Prairie" contributed by H. F. Heady et al. This chapter includes some new material not covered in Heady's contribution to the *Terrestrial Vegetation of California* book (edited by Barbour and Major). The present contribution, however, is an outdated coverage of the subject, finished years before the 1992 publication date. While it represents a useful summary of many important studies performed by UC Davis and UC Berkeley scientists, it includes few other studies. It is noted that, while the authors included more than 20 of their own papers, none of the work performed on Jasper Ridge grasslands in the past two decades is cited; the omission of names such as Gulmon, Mooney, Turitzin, Chiariello, and Hobbs, when discussing California grasslands, is inexcusable. Not only were most all papers dealing with southern California grasslands omitted, but southern California grasslands were omitted from the distribution map. This chapter falls short of being an adequate review of the California Prairie. Not being familiar with literature on other western North American grasslands I can not say whether this problem is true of other chapters in the book. In light of my disappointment with the California grassland chapter, I cannot suggest this volume as an addition to our reader's library.

—JON E. KEELEY, Department of Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041.